



CTC - working for our community

## MEDIA RELEASE

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The recent Commonwealth Government announcement of the results of the periodic tender process for Employment Services has shocked and bewildered South Burnett CTC Inc's Board, management and staff.

"We realized from the moment the government announced that the size of regions to be tendered for would be quadrupled, that smaller locally based providers would have to fight an uphill battle. We did not expect that 7 new, mainly statewide or national organisations, many of them for profit businesses, would totally replace longstanding, experienced and highly regarded local not-for-profits like CTC Employment and ESQ in the South Burnett and Gympie region."

For CTC this means the end of federally funded employment services currently provided in the South Burnett and Gympie region from sites in Kingaroy, Murgon, Gympie and Tin Can Bay. It is not the end of CTC Labour Hire or our ability to host Work for the Dole projects, run The Gumnut Place or be involved in any other labour market programs – in fact CTC will redouble its efforts in these activities.

Until the end of the current contract on 30 June it will be "business as usual" for jobseekers and employers as CTC's dedicated staff will ensure that their clients will get the best possible service in the transition to the new providers.

At the same time the organisation will promote the 30 or so staff who will be made redundant to the new providers. "CTC has done everything possible to ensure that staff have the highest qualifications, training and skills which together with their local connections should make any new provider want to snap them up."

The local economy is already suffering – it cannot afford further job losses. As it is, the flow on effect to local suppliers, TAFE, driving schools etc will be considerable as it is suspected that the new providers will have to rely heavily on their head offices elsewhere to make their small market shares viable.

Although this is a serious blow, South Burnett CTC will certainly continue to provide all its other services in the South Burnett and will retain about 160 employees. “Our vision and mission is to make sure that all people in our area have access to the services they need to live meaningful and productive lives to the best of their capacity. While employment is clearly a vital element in most people’s life, many need help in overcoming barriers to work and full participation in society. CTC will continue to provide such assistance and do its best to help our region to prosper as we have done since 1983.”

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